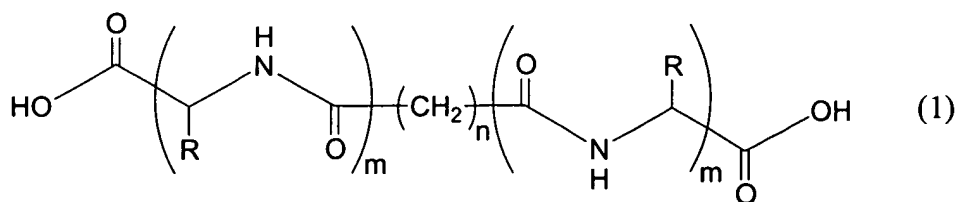


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A fine spherical particle ~~having uniform molecular orientation~~, which comprises a compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms; n is an integer of 8 to 20; and m is an integer of 1 to 3; and when R is a hydrogen atom, m is not 1, and
wherein the particle has uniform molecular orientation.

2. (Original): The fine spherical particle according to claim 1, wherein the fine particle is evenly oriented in a radial pattern from the center.

3. (Previously Presented): The fine spherical particle according to claim 1, wherein the particle diameter of the fine particle is from 0.01 to 100 μm .

4. (Previously Presented): A process for producing the fine spherical particle according to claim 1, which comprises immersing a substrate having hydrophilicity in an aqueous solution of a salt of the compound represented by formula (1) to precipitate the fine particle under an acidic atmosphere.

5. (Original): The process for producing the fine spherical particle according to claim 4, wherein the salt of the compound represented by formula (1) is an alkali metal salt.

6. (Previously Presented): The process for producing the fine spherical particle according to claim 4, wherein the substrate comprises glass, metal, silica, mica, ceramic, earthenware, porcelain, plastic, or a composite material thereof.

7. (Previously Presented): The process for producing the fine spherical particle according to claim 4, wherein the fine particle is precipitated under an acidic atmosphere of pH 5 to 6.

8. (Currently Amended): A spherical microcapsule in which a ~~fine particle of a hydrophilic core substance are encapsulated inside the spherical~~ **hydrophilic core substance is encapsulated inside the fine spherical** body of the compound represented by formula (1) ~~having uniform molecular orientation.~~

9. (Original): The spherical microcapsule according to claim 8, wherein the spherical microcapsule has a particle diameter of from 0.01 to 100 μm .

10. (Currently Amended): A process for producing the spherical microcapsule ~~encapsulating a fine particle of a hydrophilic core substance~~ according to claim 8, which comprises immersing a hydrophilicity-treated substrate in an aqueous solution in which a metal salt of the compound represented by formula (1) and the hydrophilic core substance are dissolved; and allowing the aqueous solution to stand under an acidic atmosphere for precipitation.

11. (Original): The process for producing the spherical microcapsule according to claim 10, wherein the metal salt of the compound represented by formula (1) is an alkali metal salt.

12. (Previously Presented): The process for producing the spherical microcapsule according to claim 10, wherein the acidic atmosphere is a weakly acidic atmosphere of pH 5 to 6.

13. (Previously Presented): The process for producing the spherical microcapsule according to claim 10, wherein the substrate is selected from glass, metal, silica, mica, a ceramic, earthenware, porcelain, plastic, and a composite material thereof.